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December 3, 2008

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REFERENCE NO

40198/324831

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ATLANTA AUGUSTA CHARLOTTE LONDON NEW YORK RALEIGH STOCKHOLM WASHINGTON WINSTON-SALEM

DEC 03 2008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Bell, et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 09/937,542 GROUP ART UNIT: 3734  
FILED: September 26, 2001 EXAMINER: Victor X. Nguyen

FOR: Scalpel Assembly

DATE: December 3, 2008

Attorney Docket No.: 40198/324831

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW AGENDA

A telephone interview with the Examiner is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008 at 3:00 pm ET. The undersigned thanks the Examiner in advance for his time and consideration. The following claims and issues are proposed for discussion during the interview.

Discussion of the Invention of this Application

The undersigned anticipates providing a brief summary of the invention of this application in order to clarify certain aspects of the invention. This summary and clarifying remarks will be provided to assist the Examiner in the discussions related to the outstanding claim rejections.

Serial No. 09/937,542  
Filing Date: September 26, 2001  
Interview Agenda

**Friedman Does Not Fully Disclose Claims 22-43**

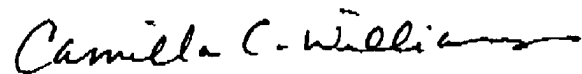
In rejecting Claims 22-43, the Examiner alleged that the Claims were anticipated by Friedman. Friedman discloses rivets which are received in the slot in the blade, and the blade is held in place by the latch of the spring. Unlike the blade bar and keyhole slot assembly of the claimed invention, the structure of Friedman is designed to secure a blade having an open ended slot. Moreover, Friedman does not disclose a surrounding collet structure as disclosed and claimed. Thus Friedman fails to disclose a handle assembly having a collet as described and as required by independent Claims 23 and 29.

**Jessen Does Not Fully Disclose Claims 3-5, 10-20, 23 and 29**

In rejecting Claims 23 and 29, the Examiner alleged that the Claims were anticipated by Jessen. Jessen discloses blades attached to a handle rod, but fails to disclose the claimed structure of the blade bar having a tang for insertion into a keyed slot as required by independent Claim 23. Nor does Jessen disclose a collet having a bore within a collet, as required by independent Claim 29. Thus Jessen fails to disclose every element required by independent Claims 23 and 29.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 404/815-6188 if anything else is needed prior to the interview.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Camilla C. Williams  
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